

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sherrard et al. [US 3061491] in view of applicant's admission.

Sherrard's invention relates to a laminated structure. Fig. 3 shows that the laminate comprises a plastisol layer, which contains high density metallic powder useful for sound attenuation (functional film) [col. 3, ll. 6]. The plastisol layer is deposited over an adhesive layer, an aluminum foil 11, and a pressure sensitive adhesive layer 12 sequentially [col. 2, ll. 53-61; col. 4, ll. 56]. An optional top coat 14 is provided for decorative effect [col. 3, ll. 48-50].

For claims 4-6, the examiner takes Official notice that it is well known that aluminum foil is a moisture barrier, and plastisol absorbs moisture and therefore infers a degree of moisture transmission. Sherrard lacks a teaching of using a bubbling-resistant adhesive as the adhesive layer 12. However, applicant has admitted that such an adhesive is known prior art for substrate such as polycarbonate to alleviate the deterioration of surface appearance of a functional laminate caused by bubbles due to substrate degassing [specification pages 1-2]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the adhesive layer 12 of Sherrard's

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laminate with the known bubbling-resistant adhesive, motivated by the desire to obtain the beneficial effect.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor S. Chang whose telephone number is 571-272-1474. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 5:00 pm, Tuesday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel H. Morris can be reached on 571-272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Victor S Chang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794

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